

Avi and Julie Israel and other parents in Washington this week have shown amazing strength despite unthinkable sorrow. Their pain will never be relieved, but we have an obligation to move quickly to "Save the Michaels of the World."

#### STUDENT LOANS

(Mr. COURTNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, on July 2, we will celebrate the 150th anniversary of President Abraham Lincoln's signing of the Morrill Act, a Federal mandate for every State to establish a land grant college.

What an inspiring example. In the darkest days of the Civil War, we have leaders who understood that making college a national priority was too important to be ignored. Sadly, the day before that anniversary, July 1—53 days from today—we risk breaking faith with that vision when Stafford student loan interest rates double from 3.4 percent to 6.8 percent.

For 3 months, I have put forth a bipartisan bill, with over 150 cosponsors, to permanently fix this problem. Yet all we have gotten from the Republican leadership is a Band-Aid bill that is a dead letter—cynically wiping out a fund to prevent cancer, heart disease, and diabetes to pay for only 1 year of student loan relief.

Sorry, Mr. Speaker. The American people are smarter than that. They want a real bill, paid for fairly, that helps students, not fearful politicians.

#### STUDENT LOAN INTEREST RATE

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, right now, student loan debt is higher than credit card debt for the first time in history. College costs are growing each year, forcing students to take out more loans to get the same education—an education that gives them the keys to the American middle class. And the Republican's response? Play political games that could result in interest rate hikes from 3.4 percent to 6.8 percent on July 1 for student loans, affecting over 7 million students, making the average graduate pay an additional \$1,000 in interest payments each year if rates are allowed to double. Ohio students alone will end up paying nearly \$300 million in extra interest payments over the next year.

Recent graduates have high unemployment rates and are the least prepared to deal with these increased payments. But House Republicans are content to plunge them deeper into debt while instead fighting for more tax breaks for millionaires, many of whom pay lower rates than the middle class.

It's time for Republicans to come to the table and compromise. It seems logical that Congress would not stand

in the way of making college more affordable by doubling the interest rates of college loans, but the Republican Party in this House is not acting logically. What a crying shame.

#### KEEPING STUDENT LOAN INTEREST RATE LOW

(Ms. NORTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, when the President alerted the country that student loan interest rates would double July 1, our Republican friends called it a fake controversy, that they always intended to take care of it. Why, then, was it nowhere to be found in the Republican Ryan budget? Why do they want to pay for it with the health care funds of the parents and grandparents of the Class of 2012?

This year's class will graduate with an unemployment rate for their age group that is twice the national average. Keeping their loan rates low should be this session's no-brainer. If student loan rates go to 6.8 percent, they will be paying above the mortgage interest rates of many Americans. Treasury is borrowing at virtually zero.

Congress has not given the Class of 2012 a jobs bill. One graduation gift we can give them is the current 3.4 percent interest rate.

#### TEACHER APPRECIATION DAY

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of National Teacher Appreciation Day. Let us honor all of our teachers for their passion and dedication to educating America's future.

Today, I would like to recognize Mrs. Pam Krey, a resident of the district that I represent, who has dedicated her life to education. Before launching her Anaheim Union High School District career as an administrator for 25 years, she taught at all levels in the Anaheim City School District. Mrs. Krey has said:

The single most important thing we can do for our students is to create a place for high levels of learning that is safe, caring, and focused on developing the academic and social skills that can take them to whatever their goals and dreams may be.

In addition to serving as principal, Mrs. Krey also served the community of Anaheim in Orange County. She's an active member of the Anaheim Police Chief's Advisory Board, the Cops 4 Kids Board, and Youth Leadership of America. She has received numerous awards throughout the years, including Teacher of the Year, Special Education Friend of Education, the Outstanding Contribution to Education Award from the Orange County Department of Edu-

cation, and Disney's Community Services Award.

Mrs. Krey will be retiring at the end of this academic year as principal from the very school she attended as a teenager.

I encourage everyone to thank their teachers today.

#### REPUBLICAN BUDGET

(Mr. LANGEVIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, Democrats are committed to reducing the deficit in a balanced way. In contrast, Republicans will bring up a bill this week that breaks our bipartisan agreement, erasing the hard work on both sides to reach compromise. This was the agreement that resulted in us allowing to raise the debt ceiling and put in place the supercommittee that could have reached a more balanced approach to budgeting, with both revenues and budget cuts. But my Republican colleagues rejected increased revenues that were needed.

This wasn't simply a gentleman's agreement that was arrived at that will put in place sequester. This compromise was signed into law as our pledge to each other and to the Nation to work together to solve our most challenging issues.

Republicans are reneging on that agreement. They've decided that cutting the programs which would help heat my constituents' homes, put food on their tables, and send their children to college is the right approach to rebuilding a strong economy. They've decided that denying health coverage to thousands of Americans is better than repealing tax cuts to millionaires. They've decided that going it alone is more important than working with Democrats.

Democrats have a plan to put our fiscal house back in order. It's been 500 days since the GOP took over and we're still waiting for theirs. We can do better, and I urge them to work with us.

#### HOUSE REPUBLICAN BUDGET RECONCILIATION PACKAGE

(Ms. EDWARDS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, once again, Republicans are going to pass a budget reconciliation that gives tax breaks to the wealthiest Americans, Big Oil, and companies that ship American jobs overseas.

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities says that this Tea Party budget that gives away \$3 trillion would provide those making over a million dollars a year with an average tax cut of \$394,000 a year.

And how do the Republicans pay for this little bonus? Well, Mr. Speaker, they do it by ending the Medicare guarantee and balancing their budget on